31st January 1929]

(*f*) & (*g*) In connexion with the breaches that occurred in October 1928, which were due to exceptionally heavy rains, the Government have addressed the Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, in regard to the adequacy of certain waterways in the area affected. The matter will be further investigated.

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" May I know from the hon. the Finance Member whether the Agent, Madras and Southern Maharatta Railway gave it as his opinion that the present culverts and bridges were not of sufficient width ? "

The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" So far as I know, that is not the case."

Bucket shops.

Legislation for putting down bucket shops.

* 1240 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what progress, if any, has been made in the matter of legislation to put down bucket shops since November 1928 when this question was answered in the Council ;

(*b*) whether a Bill will be introduced in this Council ; and

(*c*) if not, why not ?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) A Bill will be introduced at the meeting of the Legislative Council commencing on the 28th January 1929.

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—" May I ask whether the provisions of the Bill will apply only to the City of Madras ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—" May I know whether he is aware that the Bill will not serve any useful purpose if it is restricted to the city alone ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The Government believe that the evil will be minimised to a very large extent."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN :—" May I know if the hon. Member is aware that in all practically important towns in the province bucket shops have already been opened ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" No, Sir. That is not our information."

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask the hon. Member whether he is aware that there are a number of bucket shops in Saidapet and that people from the city will go there in large numbers ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" No, Sir. The Government do not think so."

Depressed classes.

Rural and urban indebtedness of ryots in the Kallar reclamation districts.

* 1241 Q.—Mr. S. N. DORAI RAJA : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased—

(*a*) to call for and lay on the Council table an accurate and exhaustive statement of the rural and urban indebtedness of ryots in the various

sub-districts of the Kallar reclamation districts of Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Madura for 1921–26 on the analogy of the statement published at pages 264 and 267 of the Tanjore Resettlement report published in G.O. No. 1537, Revenue, dated 25th August 1922; and

(b) to state how many land mortgage banks are working now in Kallarnad?

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative.
(b) None.

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA:—"May I know if the Government have any policy in opening land mortgage banks?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Is it within the portfolio of the hon. the Home Member?"

Inland Waterways

Boat traffic in the Godavari river lower down the anicut.

* 1242 *Q.*—Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state with reference to the answer to question No. 892 answered on 29th November 1928 regarding boat traffic in the Godavari river lower down the anicut—

(a) whether the opinion of the District Magistrate referred to in clause (a) has been received by the Government and whether the Government have passed any orders thereon; and

(b) whether the Government intend to take proper measures to control boat traffic in the river both with reference to the river-worthiness of the boats and the efficiency and capacity of the persons who ply them?

A.—(a) The opinion of the District Magistrate has not yet been received?
(b) Yes.

Irrigation

Progress of the Pulikonda project in Ongole taluk.

* 1243 *Q.*—Mr. P. ANJANEYULU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage is the Pulikonda project in the Ongole taluk, Guntur district;

(b) when the Government are likely to undertake it;

(c) whether Government have received any report from the special staff regarding the Gundlakamma project in the same taluk; and

(d) if so, whether the Government have passed any orders thereon?

A.—(a) & (b) The discharge calculations are being examined by the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) and he expects to complete this examination by May 1929. The technical scrutiny of the scheme itself will be taken up afterwards, if the discharge calculations show that a sufficient supply of water can be relied on. Until these preliminary studies are completed, it cannot be said when the Government are likely to undertake the scheme.

(c) & (d) The special subdivisional officer, appointed to investigate the scheme, has submitted his report, in which he has dealt with two proposals, viz., (1) the proposals for a reservoir near